

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been cancelled. New claims 15-36 have been added among which claims 15 and 26 are independent claims. The new claims are directed to the subject matters recited in original claims 3, 4, 11 and 12.

In the Office Action, original claims 1-5 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harada et al (US 5,721,583). Original claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada et al in view of Houser (US 5,774,859). In rejecting claims 3, 4, 11 and 12, the Examiner found that Harada discloses that the control unit provides a user interface according to the attribute information corresponding to the identification information included in the received control signal and that the control unit does not allow a user to receive a program, of which attribute is not congruous with the attribute information of the user, while designating the disclosure of Harada in col. 18, lines 32-39 and col. 20 and lines 30-35. (See page 3 of the Office Action). Applicants have found the designated disclosure of Harada not so particularly relevant to the subject matter recited in original claims 3, 4, 11 and 12.

However, Applicants would like to call the Examiner's attention to the disclosure in col. 30, lines 13-62, the first paragraph of which reads as follows:

"With this embodiment, as shown in the flow diagrams of FIGS. 32, 32, and 33, the center apparatus holds stored in memory a list of registered remote control apparatus identifiers, i.e. identifiers of remote control apparatuses which are respectively assigned to authorized users, and also has service status data stored in memory, which specifies those services which are restricted to being accessed only by registered users, i.e. a corresponding list of services which are available only to authorized users. It can thereby be ensured that a request from a user for a service will only be responded to by the center apparatus if the service is not restricted, or if the service is restricted but the remote control apparatus identifier of the user is listed as that of an authorized user."

Thus, in Harada, when receiving a request for a service, the center apparatus examines whether the user is authorized to receive the service, using the identifier of a

remote control apparatus. If the user is not authorized, the center apparatus does not respond to the request. Please note that in Harada, a user still can choose a service which the user is not authorized to receive. Although the user still can selectively request a service with the user is not authorized to receive, the center apparatus will not respond to the request, thereby restricting the user from receiving the service.

On the other hand, in the present invention recited in claims 15, a user cannot choose a service which the user is not authorized to receive, because the user interface of the present invention does not show the service to the user. More specifically, the option selector recited in claim 15 determines, based on at least one of the located user attributes and the identifications of the instructing users, different operational options available to the instructing users from among operational options selectable in connection with execution of the performances. The object generator then generates different objects for the instructing users which show only the available operational options for the instructing users. These limitations are neither disclosed nor taught by Harada.

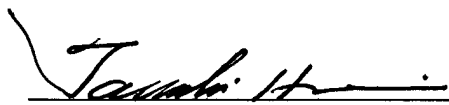
Since Harada is silent about the above limitations of the present invention, claim 15 and its dependent claims should be allowable over Harada. Claim 26 and its dependent claims, which recite similar limitations, should also be allowable over Harada.

Nor Houser et al disclose or teach the above limitations. Therefore, new claims 15-36 should be allowable over Houser.

For the reasons stated above, Harada and Houser, even combined, fail to disclose or teach the present invention recited in the new claims. Thus, the present inventions should be allowable over the cited references.

Respectfully submitted,

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